

## The Times-Dispatch

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## WHAT'S THE CONSTITUTION BETWEEN POLITICIANS?

No intelligent man can investigate fairly the bill to resubmit to the people the constitutional amendment giving unlimited tenure to city treasurers and city commissioners without reaching the conviction that the proposition is beyond all doubt unconstitutional. Yet, in all probability, an overwhelming majority of the Senate of Virginia, despite the fact that they are sworn to support the Constitution of the Commonwealth, will, unheeding the facts before them, vote for this iniquitous and outrageous measure. How, in good conscience, a Senator can vote for this bill, after he has heard the question fully discussed, The Times-Dispatch is at a loss to understand, especially after the masterful and unanswerable argument of Senator Walker, of Northumberland, yesterday, when he showed that law and precedent held that the proposed resubmission is in direct violation of the Constitution of Virginia. So far as is known, Senator Walker is the only opponent of this unconstitutional proposition, which would doubtless have slipped through the Senate as smoothly and easily as it did in the House, had it not been for the courageous and patriotic stand of the chairman of the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice, who, single-handed, is resisting this deliberate attempt of a powerful officeholders' trust to deliberately disregard the organic law of the State. If the Senate of Virginia looks this question squarely in the face, it cannot, in our opinion, give its assent to the resubmission of the amendment.

So confident were the supporters of resubmission yesterday that the explanation they made of it was thinner than tissue paper. It would have been better if no defense at all had been offered. The contention for resubmission embraced three arguments: (1) That the people demand the right to vote separately as to the tenure of city treasurers and commissioners; (2) that, because lawyers disagree as to the constitutionality of the amendment, the people should pass upon it; (3) that the General Assembly was guilty of gross error in incorporating in a single resolution the proposition to give unlimited tenure to city treasurers and commissioners. That was all, and it took one Senator about four minutes to state it.

Standing squarely upon the law of this State and other States, Senator Walker showed that there is no public demand for this amendment; at no time and nowhere have the people of Virginia protested that they wished to vote separately on city treasurers and commissioners, nor have they evidenced one scintilla of desire to have the amendment resubmitted. The matter, rightly said the Senator, is one of "very great importance." It ought not to be acted upon by the Senate until after due deliberation. "The question has never before been presented to the General Assembly of Virginia, nor, as far as I can ascertain, to any Legislature," he said. Yet so vital a measure went through the House without discussion and with but one negative vote, and it seemed yesterday that it was about to slide as swiftly through the Senate.

The Constitution of Virginia, pointed out Senator Walker, gives the General Assembly the unrestricted right to propose amendments to the people "in such manner . . . as it shall prescribe." That gives the Legislature full authority to put the amendments in whatever form that body sees fit. The Constitution does not say that amendments shall be submitted separately; even in State Constitutions where it is expressly required that amendments shall be proposed separately, it has been uniformly held that when several amendments are germane they can legally be included in one resolution.

It follows that under the Virginia Constitution, which does not require separate submission, many amendments could be embraced within a single resolution. This has been done in Virginia in the past; there are many instances of it under the old Constitution. The constitutional provision for resubmission of amendments in the present Constitution is the same as that in the old Constitution; the last Constitutional Convention simply re-enacted and continued the law as it existed prior to the adoption of the organic law by that body. The contention of the supporters of resubmission is that the amendment as to county treasurers and commissioners was valid, because only one paragraph of the Constitution was included in the resolution proposing the change, while in the case of city treasurers and commissioners two sections were included in one resolution, one of which referred to city treasurers; the other to city commissioners. Senator Walker points out that these two adjoining sections are not only plainly germane, but that, in addition, the city treasurers mentioned in one paragraph and the city commissioners in the other are peculiarly and inseparably

bly joined, because they especially are the city officers charged with duties pertaining to the public revenue.

The contention of Randolph Harrison, of Lynchburg, counsel before the General Assembly for City Treasurer Adams, of that city, who does not like this amendment as it was passed by the people in 1910, because it will eventually relieve him of his office, is mainly that because there are two sections numbered with different numbers, these sections ought to have been submitted separately. A mere question of figures, a transparent technicality, as any one may see. The argument for submission is that each section of the Constitution should have been submitted separately. On the other hand, Senator Walker showed case after case where all manner of amendments, in some cases not even germane, were included in single resolutions of submission, which were afterward declared constitutional by the highest State courts. In 1907 the Connecticut Legislature submitted a whole Constitution in the form of an amendment, and it was voted upon precisely as this single amendment was voted upon in Virginia. Suffice it to say that tremendous weight of authority is to the effect that germane amendments without limit can be submitted in one resolution, even in States which, unlike Virginia, require separate submission. No authority in point is cited on the other side; merely platitudes.

The amendment involving city treasurers and commissioners was passed by two sessions of the General Assembly, defeated by the people, and the result proclaimed by the Governor. The amendment is dead. It cannot be resubmitted to the people by this General Assembly, because the function of this Legislature with regard to it ceased when it submitted the question to the people. The General Assembly can begin over again, but it cannot, under the fundamental law of Virginia, submit this proposition to the people for action this year. Any popular action before 1914 is unconstitutional.

What is the real reason for this agitation for resubmission? If the question is not resubmitted, the city treasurers and commissioners will soon have to go out of office, and they are forcing legislators to fly in the face of the Constitution of Virginia so that these city officers, few of whom die, none of whom resign and some of whom have held office from time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, may still enjoy wealth and political power. Roughed over the law, over the Constitution and through precedent they ride, murmuring with something of threat and something of promise into the ears of legislators, "What's the Constitution of Virginia between friends?"

**THE HARMON INVITATION.**  
Wishing to take the measure of the man and to hear of the things for which he stands, the General Assembly yesterday invited Governor Harmon, of Ohio, to address it at this session. Doubtless he will accept this opportunity to become acquainted in some degree with the representatives of the Virginia electorate and to state to them his views on national issues. The mind of Virginia is not yet made up as to whom it prefers for the Democratic nomination for the presidency, and the legislative invitation is significant of the open-mindedness and fairness of the people of the Old Dominion, who wish to hear all sides and have the facts before them before reaching, deliberately and coolly, a final decision. Governor Harmon looms large on the political horizon; even his foes concede that he has given Ohio a most constructive and progressive administration. He will be cordially welcomed in Virginia and given attentive ear.

**THE YOUNG TURK OLIGARCHY.**  
Is the clock of destiny about to strike finally the hour for the partition of Turkey, and chime the fulness of time that will mock the sacrilegious boast of the leader of the faithful that he would stable his horse in St. Peter's at Rome? Stanwood Cobb, writing in one of the January reviews, believes it is. As he phrases his convictions, "In every chancellery in Europe, all eyes are fastened upon Turkey; Turkey is about to be carved. Who will get the best slice? That is the question which most concerns Europe to-day." Mr. Cobb's assertion is a bold and surprising one, and naturally intrudes the query, is he competent to speak on the subject? That he is there is every reason to be satisfied. For three years Mr. Cobb was a teacher in Roberts College at Constantinople, where he had exceptional opportunities to study Turkish conditions. For a part of these years he was in the midst of the upheaval that preceded the "constitutional revolution," for another part he was amid the swirl of events that succeeded the triumph of the New Turkey party; during all of them he was a contributor of special articles to the press, the verification of his views, statements and predictions in which established for him an enviable position as an authority upon Turkish affairs; during all of which, moreover, he was diligently making investigations and collecting facts and data for a book, now in preparation, on Turkey, the revolution and after.

In his review article Mr. Cobb lays down the proposition that first and last and throughout constitutional Turkey has been an oligarchy planned together and propped by bayonets, subservient to and controlled for the nonce by a minority, not merely of the whole people of Turkey, but of the Turks—the faithful, the followers of the Prophet. The latter in turn are but a fraction of the people over whom the Turks hold sway. Details as helpful in understanding and appreciating how out of balance is the population as between Turks and other races, and how prominent and significant and

menacing are the racial and religious factors of the problem, are these: In the total population of 30,000,000, there are only some 8,000,000 Turks as against 20,000,000 Armenians, 8,000,000 Greeks and some 1,000,000 Bulgarians—a total of Christians alone outnumbering greatly their overlords. Here we have under the dominion of a racially and religiously repugnant minority the greatest diversity of peoples known, save in India, with her British rule, and with the vast majority of the minority overlorded and tyrannized by an obnoxious minority within itself; nay, by a hated minority within itself, for it is no secret that but for the army's support of the Young Turks, the old Turks would fall upon the "usurpers" like ravening wolves.

The political power of the Young Turks is nil, and recognizing this from the beginning they have instituted, through their Committee of Union and Progress, a despotism far more odious than the one they supplanted, particularly so far as affects the non-Mohammedans—a despotism masquerading in the garb of constitutionalism, liberalism and reform, and in which "Union" represents Ottomanization and "Progress" stands for armed repression. Their Ottomanizing—"nationalizing" policy, to give it their own more familiar name—has proved no less an element of weakness to the Young Turks than the contrary policy proved an element of strength and a very present help to the old order, of which Abdul Hamid was a conspicuous, adroit and most subtle exponent. The deposed Sultan juggled the racial hatreds and religious animosities of his non-Mohammedan subjects, so as to keep them too busy trying to out one another's throats to organize formidable resistance to the central power. So long as monetary tribute was forthcoming from the unbelievers he interfered but little with their manners, customs and acts, until it became essential to placate the powers by a little military "pacification" in which those of his own faith exacted a satisfactory blood tribute. By the token of pacification he saved the consciences of the powers to the end, on various occasions, of staying off intervention and partition.

On the other hand, the Ottomanizing process the Young Turks are essaying is stimulating a spirit of concentration and co-operative resistance—a spirit of anti-Moslem nationalism. No headway has been made in suppressing the Albanian revolt, which, although static for the present, is gathering force and storing energy against the opening of spring. Turmoil and menace have become so serious in Macedonia that, according to dispatches of a few days ago, it has been found advisable to dispatch thither 35,000 additional Turkish soldiers of all arms. Greece is reported as secretly preparing to answer "the Macedonian cry," and Bulgaria, with an army of 300,000 men, one of the best drilled armies in Europe, stands constant guard in her Balkan passes, and is known to be willing, ready and anxious to do the same, while further it is certain that Roumania would follow where Bulgaria led. Russia has never ceased to covet the Bosphorus, and has never relinquished her ambition—what she conceived to be her holy mission—to plant the Cross above the Crescent on St. Sophia, and Austria-Hungary has all her plans laid to press on to Salonica when opportunity shall have become ripe. Meanwhile, operating insidiously, but potentially, to undermine the bayonet props of the Young Turk oligarchy, is France's seizure of Tripoli. The Turko-Italian War is materially diminishing Turkish resources needed to cope with internal unrest, yet the Young Turks dare not make peace with Italy at the expense of surrender of the Tripolitan possession. To do so would be to put another axe in the vindictive grasp of the old Turks with which to cut away the bayonet support, since acquiescence in the loss of Tripoli would involve a loss of Turkish prestige, for which alone the Young Turks would be responsible.

If the bayonet props fall—if the army becomes disaffected, recants and returns to its old allegiance—so intense is the rancor of the humiliated old Turks against, and their contempt for, the oligarchy, that a bloody counter-revolution and civil war among the Turks themselves would seem inevitable. At least, such is the opinion of Mr. Cobb, which we find sustained in going as far from him to other equally endowed authorities. The deduction that these conditions would mean, the bursting at last in all of its conceivable fury of the dreaded Balkan war cloud so long prophesied, cannot be avoided. The conclusion that they would spell cataclysm for Turkey, and opportunity, nay, necessity, for the powers to write against the Turk in Europe, was written against Belshazzar, Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin, cannot be escaped. With outside fire and steel would be inevitably forged the iron of European Turkey's fate! In grim irony it would stamp on the ruins of the empire, "Hlasnet."

Not long since Cornell University made a farm survey of several representative townships in the State. Among other things investigated was the relation of education to farming, and in figuring the annual incomes of 673 farmers, the following interesting results were obtained: The college-trained men earned "from their own labor" on an average of \$47 a year; those who had attended high school, \$522; those who had attended only the district school, \$218. Or to put it another way, the college-trained man earned 30 per cent. more than the high school man, and nearly three times as much as the district school man. A pretty good showing that for the "scholar in farming," and a pretty convincing argument in favor of farmers giving their sons the advantage of a college education when possible.

## On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

The Real Forum.  
The nation's great problems are settled at last.  
Over the backyard fence.  
And mighty news items are flippantly passed.  
Over the backyard fence.  
They peddle the rumors and pass the reports.  
They settle lawsuits in advance of the courts.  
They argue religion and music and sports.  
Over the backyard fence.

There is no appeal from decisions they make.  
Over the backyard fence.  
They argue the case just for argument's sake.  
Over the backyard fence.  
File court in a session both morning and night.  
While victims are burning, until they're a sight.  
And time counts for naught when they get started right.  
Over the backyard fence.

They rake the whole neighborhood with a fine comb.  
Over the backyard fence.  
They tell of the skeletons in every home.  
Over the backyard fence.  
It will ever be thus as the decades roll by.  
And the centuries, too, unless histories lie.  
And until the millennium gossip will fly.  
Over the backyard fence.

## Caught on the Fly.

One of the new women voters who registered at Los Angeles admitted being ninety-one years of age. She is the only suffragette in the world more than thirty.

An Eastern minister says every woman will some time take an interest in baseball. Then there will never be anybody to stay at home with the children.

The progressive Republicans have mailed forty thousand speeches. Perhaps, after awhile the Wrights will invent an aeroplane that can't be pulled down out of the air with a team of horses.

Gambling, which was banished from Mount Clemens, Mich., forever about a month ago, is again being investigated.

According to a government report 350,000,000 lead pencils are used in this country every year. Most of them are being used this year to figure out who will be the next President.

Slam has three kinds of grapefruit, so it is just three times as hard to be fashionable in Slam as in any other country.

## Some Leap Year Hints.

Girls, be sure and look before you leap.  
Pick out a fat man. They wear better in the long run, and then, too, they are easier to land. A fat man is tender hearted and simply cannot refuse an offer of marriage.  
Never mind the looks. Don't wait until you find a Greek God. Grab what you can get. The grubbing is good. The homely ones are the ones who bring home the pork chops.

If you cannot support the young man in the manner to which he has been used, be honest and straightforward about it, and tell him so. Don't lead him to expect champagne when you have only a beer income. Never lie to the young man about your salary, for when he learns the truth there is apt to be trouble.

Be sure that everything depends upon that. When you ask a young man to marry you, don't go about it as though you were ordering a ham sandwich in a one-armed restaurant. Be pleasant and polite about it. Approach him with tact and let him find out your true nature after it is too late for him to back out.

**When the World Finally Does End.**  
Somebody will be trying to solve presidential motion.

There will be rumors that Uncle Jim Wilson is about to retire from the Cabinet.

Some new "hope of the white race" will be bobbing up to try and whip Jack Johnson.

Evie Tanguay will still be singing "I Don't Care."

George M. Cohan will still be perpetuating the memory of the grand old flag.

Some vaudeville performer somewhere will be imitating Eddie Foy and Harry Lauder.

## Voice of the People

**Defends Dr. Alderman.**  
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Will you be good enough to publish my communication the same prominence given to the statement published on January 30th, by Mr. Murray M. McGuire, in regard to the proposed co-ordinate college for women at the University of Virginia?

I do not propose to discuss the merits of the proposition, for the reason that by my action and my words I have come upon a crisis which I am not prepared to handle. I feel, however, that the criticism of President Alderman's attitude contained in Mr. McGuire's statement should not be permitted to pass unchallenged.

Mr. McGuire has characterized the president of the university as an unwilling witness, representing him as arguing like a partisan and speaking of him as having been forced to make unfavorable "admissions." I feel quite

sure that large numbers who were sincere and devoted to the welfare of the university had worked and are still working for the success of such a measure; that they feared, and justly feared, that delay would mean defeat. The demand for delay did not come until a crisis was reached in the fate of the measure. It is known by all how dear are the alumni of the university to the youngest of them would not be disregarded by him with unconcern; that his instinctive impulse was to support the measure; that he did not ask him to do so, or even tolerate him if he did, anything that did not accord with his sense of honor and duty.

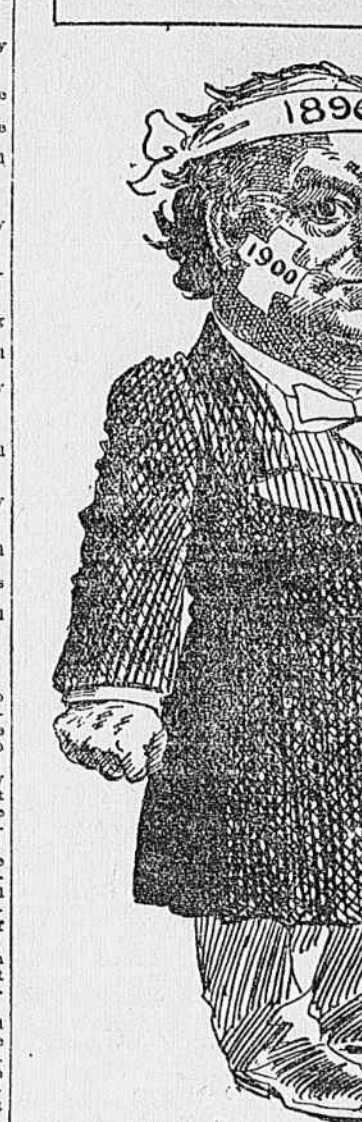
It may seem a simple thing for the president to yield to the wishes of the alumni, but his duties are more complex. He owes obligation and loyalty not only to his faculty, but also to the other friends of the measure, and to the State at large. Above all, he must remain true to his frequently declared ideal of the educational advancement of the people of Virginia. His "plain duty" required steadfastness in a moment of trial, and loyalty to himself and others.

To have surrendered his position at the solicitation of the alumni who made that request would have shown a lack of leadership and unworthy of the confidence which he so richly deserves. DANIEL HARMON, Charlottesville.

## A PROMINENT THREE-TIME LOSER VIEWS WITH ALARM A PROMINENT ONE-TIME WINNER.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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Johnson's Agricultural Chemistry and Geology," page 106. Whereas the feldspathic formations are deficient in lime, magnesia and oxide of iron, it is the absence of the last element which makes those lands produce bright tobacco. To put any more potash on these lands is injurious to the tobacco in my experimental fact, I have never seen any benefit from potash in any form on my lands. Lime put on these lands will dissolve the silicates of potash and soda and furnish all that is necessary.

The manufacture of artificial fertilizers had its origin in the work of Georges Liebig, of the Academy of Sciences in Paris, who was set up by Napoleon III, to rehabilitate the agriculture of France. His experiments led to the theory of which he is the author, that as a general thing cultivated lands are deficient in nitrogen, phosphorus, lime and potash. Other elements which enter into the soil are abundant and need not be supplied in fertilization, but it is a fact that all the granitic rocks from which our soils are made are deficient in phosphates, and this is needed everywhere and for all crops in Middle Virginia, the granitic section of the State. My experience is that bone meal or acid phosphate with legumes is all that is necessary as a general proposition, but the feldspar formations, in want lime and the horribles potash, and to ascertain which, careful experiments must be conducted with these single elements until a soil and geological map is made of the section.

Saxe. R. V. G.

**Should Women Vote?**  
To answer is no easy task. Provided always that you give your answer in the negative.

**"Why should she not?"** I've heard you say.  
She is man's equal every way.  
In fact, I've heard you go so far To say she's man's superior.  
If this be so, it seems to me, One so intelligent as she, Of any governmental plan Should have as many rights as man.

You say to vote "would bring her down From pinnacle of her renown To men who cease to idolize And laud fair woman to the skies."

Well, now before we further go We'll pause and see if this be so: For surely history will tell If arguing thus you argue well.

Great Queen Elizabeth they say Was wisest ruler in her day; And did she, wearing Britain's crown, Add to or lessen her renown?

In fact, historians all agree As ruler none so wise as she. A woman, yes, in every way, In all she did or had to say.

And coming down to later date, Which ruler was so good and great As England's Queen for sixty years? What of that "pinnacle" of hers?

You men have ruled six million years And drenched the earth with blood and tears In warfare which to woman meant Her sorrow without her consent.

Nay, more than this, not long ago, As many of us men folks know, We made the law and made it bad. Let husbands squander all wife had.

To pay his debts how many lost At gambling tables at her cost, And even now, so much preferred, The widow only gets the third Of an estate she helped to save.

And now, in this enlightened age, When women stand at her own stage And ask you in a civil way For equal rights, you answer "Nay."

In view of this it seems to me That all man's talk of chivalry Is poppy-cock, and more than half Of it is nothing else but galleys slave.

DUVAL PORTER.

**Potash in Fertilizer.**  
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—"Potash Competition in Sight" is a paper misleading in some important particulars, especially in your conclusion that potash is an essential element in all fertilizers, or that it is the only element in the tobacco district of the State, need potash. It is true that some of our soils are almost entirely deficient in potash, and the horribles formations, vido

## QUERIES &amp; ANSWERS

An Address. Please give the home address of Charles A. Conant, the distinguished writer on economics. DUDLEY T. 264 West Forty-seventh Street, New York City.

Drakeman. Please inform me whom to apply to for pace as brakemen on the Pennsylvania, Big Four, Union Pacific, etc. SUBSCRIBER.

Each of the roads you name might have many officials who could appoint, address "divisions of transport" of the road you select at any divisional city of any of the roads.

**A Quotation.** Where is the quotation, "no such word as fail," taken from?

LYTTON attributes to Richelieu, "In the bright lexicon of youth there is no such word as fail." Probably the exclamation of Mirabeau, "Impossible, ne me dites jamais ce bete de mot," is about as far back as the term may be carried with any certainty.

**Governor McCrory.** What was the present Governor of Kentucky? When and where was he born?

JAMES BENNETT MCCRORY, 1838. Madison county, Ky.

**"Wheels."** Please state exactly what the expression, "knock into a cocked hat," does mean.

A. A. The form is considered an Americanism, though it may probably be found in English papers, etc., of the past fifty years. It means so to mishandle and knock a thing about that it has the shape of a cocked hat.

**Italy Beyond the Alps.** Please tell me the author of the expression, "Yes, but beyond the Alps lies Italy." In what circumstances was it used? Is it unlawful to draw a check for less than one dollar?

J. W. P. It is commonly attributed, on what authority we do not know, to Napoleon, the "circumstances" would naturally be some meeting of his staff in which the hardships of the Alpine campaign were being stated. This form and its kinship, "There shall be no Alps," are both, very likely, ingenious outgrowths of the epigram which Voltaire attributes to Louis XIV., "There are no longer any Pyrenees."

No. Stamps, Coins, Etc. Mrs. A. H. Jones, S. B. N. and Felix send lists of stamps and coins, in which there is nothing of value enough to pay for the trouble of selling. The name and address of reliable dealers will be sent to these correspondents if they so desire, and will send stamp for answer.

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